

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Withdrawn) A spring-turning apparatus for turning a spring into a position suitable for delivery to a spring-transporting apparatus, wherein the spring-turning apparatus comprises:

a cassette wheel configured to be rotated about an axis, wherein the cassette wheel has at least one cassette compartment for holding the spring in a first rotational position; and

at least one first transfer element for delivering the spring to the spring-transporting apparatus in a second rotational position.

21. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the cassette wheel includes four cassette compartments, wherein the cassette wheel is configured to rotate and cause the at least one cassette compartment to move into the second rotational position having a 90° angle of rotation with respect to the first rotational position.

22. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each cassette compartment includes a first transfer element.

23. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the first transfer element includes a pivotally mounted sliding arm.

24. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the pivoting arm includes a recess for holding the spring.

25. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the at least one cassette compartment includes two opposite walls adapted to hold the spring therebetween.

26. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising rotary plates adapted to hold the spring therebetween.

27. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a transfer unit, wherein the transfer unit includes two mutually opposite clamping plates for holding the spring by clamping thereof, and further including a second transfer element for delivering the spring from the transfer unit into the cassette wheel.

28. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 26, wherein one of the respective rotary plates is arranged in each one of the respective clamping plates.

29. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 27, wherein one of the respective rotary plates is arranged in each one of the respective clamping plates.

30. (Withdrawn) The spring-turning apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the transfer unit is pivotally arranged.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for forming rows of springs, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying the springs individually one at a time and delivering the springs individually at a lower delivery point to a spring conveyor in which said row of springs is formed; and

changing the relative position of the lower delivery point with respect to the spring conveyor for a further spring to be supplied to the spring conveyor.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

delivering the springs individually to a transfer conveyor at an upper delivery point, wherein the upper delivery point remains constant in its relative position with respect to the spring conveyor and wherein only one single spring is situated on the transfer conveyor;

conveying ~~springs~~ said spring situated on the transfer conveyor to the lower delivery point; and

delivering the ~~springs~~ spring at the lower delivery point to the spring conveyor.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the spring conveyor is operated ~~in one of a constant cycle and at a constant speed~~ in a constant cycle.

34. (Currently Amended) A spring-transporting apparatus comprising:
a spring conveyor adapted to form a row of springs; and
a transfer device for transferring adapted to supply springs individually one at a time to the spring conveyor~~[[,]]; and~~

a change unit defining a lower delivery point;
wherein the transfer device is configured to transfer individually supplied springs
~~in a~~ transfers only one single spring at a time to said lower delivery point,

wherein the change unit transfers said spring from said lower delivery point to the
spring conveyor ~~in such a manner that,~~ and wherein the springs are arranged in a row and
~~arranged one~~ behind another and at selectable distances from one another on the spring
conveyor, and

wherein the relative position of the ~~lower delivery point~~ change unit with respect
to the spring conveyor is changeable so that the relative position of the lower delivery point to

the spring conveyor is changeable to arrange said springs at selectable distances from one another on the spring conveyor.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 34, ~~further comprising; wherein the transfer device is~~ a transfer conveyor which is at least partially situated parallel and adjacent to the spring conveyor ~~[[;]]~~ and transferring only one spring at a time, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a first delivery ~~means~~ mechanism situated at an upper delivery point for delivering ~~the springs~~ one spring at a time to the transfer conveyor; ~~and~~

~~a second delivery means for delivering the springs from the transfer conveyor to the spring conveyor, wherein the second delivery means are movable to the lower delivery position.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the first delivery ~~means~~ mechanism delivers the springs at an upper delivery point that remains constant relative to the spring conveyor.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the ~~first and second delivery means deliver~~ delivery mechanism delivers the springs individually.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the spring conveyor is operated by a servomotor.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the transfer conveyor is operated by a servomotor.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein one of the spring conveyor and the transfer conveyor includes two respective revolving belt

conveyors situated parallel to each other and adapted to clamp the individual springs therebetween.

41 (New): The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the spring conveyor is operated at a constant speed.

42. (New) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the spring conveyor is operated in a constant cycle.

43. (New) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the change unit comprises a stop surface to which said spring abuts before said spring is transferred to the spring conveyor.

44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the change unit comprises a control which stops the transfer conveyor at a predetermined position before said spring is transferred to said spring conveyor.

45. (New) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the lower delivery point is further defined by the transfer conveyor.

46. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said spring is supplied in a direction parallel to the moving direction of said spring conveyor.

47. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said spring is supplied with a transfer conveyor.

48. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said lower delivery point is provided by means of a stop surface.

49. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said lower delivery point is provided by means of stopping said spring before delivering said spring at a predetermined position by means of a control.

50. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the spring conveyor is operated at a constant speed.

51. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of stopping the transfer conveyor before said spring is delivered to the spring conveyor.